

Reflection for Holy Thursday

April 9, 2020

Exodus 12: 1 - 8, 11 - 14 ~ Psalm 116 ~ 1 Cor 11: 23 - 26 ~ John 13: 1 - 15

WE REMEMBER ~ WE CELEBRATE ~ WE BELIEVE ~

“Do you understand what I have done for you?

**I have given you a model (an example) to follow,
so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”**

Do this in memory / remembrance of Me!

Pope Francis, in his “Urbi et Orbi” address said: “The Lord asks us ... invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering.”

Tonight ~ the beginning of the Triduum 2020 ~
~ a very different Triduum ~

~ a new way to celebrate this great Thanksgiving Meal ~

~ we devoutly remember, once again, the indiscriminate love of God
manifested in Jesus Christ ~

~ we remember Jesus’ total gift of self to us in the Eucharist as we gather
at the Table ~

~ and how we are BECOMING Eucharist for one another ~

On this Holy Thursday night, we are nourished by the **Word** that is profound and quite familiar to us ~

~ the Word that teaches us about the depth Jesus’ love for each of us ~

~ the Words of Jesus during His ministerial Life ~

~ words of healing and comfort, acceptance and challenge, forgiveness and new life ~

~ the Word that calls us to be **Servant Leaders** ~

More than ever this Holy Thursday, we are mindful of our baptismal call, as we unite ourselves with our brothers and sisters worldwide, as people ***“of the Towel”*** ~

~ people of generous and I would dare to say “altruistic service” ~

~ people in service during this time of crisis and uncertainty where we may never know a “normal” again ~

~service in a time in which we have global news faster than ever before ~

~ service in the spirit of compassion, mercy and justice that is at the core of our very being as Providence people ~

~ and we are invited to celebrate what Jesus shares with us ~ the fullness of life, freedom, friendship, forgiveness, communion with one another ~

~ **who needs our PRESENCE today** ~

~ to attend to urgent human longings for God, wholeness, meaning and harmony ~

~ to connect our soul with the soul of the world ~ the universe ~ the global church ~

~ to simply **BE** with each other as Sister in our home ~

~ **to look this current reality in the face and communicate hope** ~

In John’s gospel, the washing of feet, Jesus’ unique way of celebrating and being with his own close friends ~ is Eucharist!

Who was this Jesus, this Teacher, this minister who washed other’s feet and invited us to do the same? Who are we to remember?

~ we are invited to remember how Jesus spoke convincingly of the Reign of God and how they would live “in peace, in God’s presence, all the days of their lives” (Luke 1:75)

~ we are invited to remember a man driven by his dreams

~ we are invited to remember how Jesus set people free from ideas and images about the laws that enslaved them

~ we are invited to remember a man who had to find quiet places to pray ~ a man who lived by faith ~ a person who had to search for answers ~

~ we are invited to remember a man whose dream was shattered, who broke down and cried over what could have been, who knew the pain of powerlessness, who knew what it was like to feel broken and terribly alone

~ we are invited to remember a man who forgave, not just once, but over and over again ~

~ we are invited to remember a man wanting to set people free from fear of the Unknown, setting his heart on breaking down barriers between people ~ a man who set people free from bondage ~

~ tonight, we remember Jesus and how he spent his entire ministerial life on the margins ~ this is Jesus’ legacy to us!

Jesus asked his friends at the Passover ~ “Do you realize what I have done for you?” What are we asked to do in memory / remembrance of Jesus? Will we ever understand what Jesus has done for us?

Now, more than ever, we, the people of God, are asked to do nothing more than the same!

We are called to model Jesus’ life of service.

If I have washed your feet, then you must wash each other’s feet!

The washing of the feet is truly a symbol for our ministry.

As women and men of Providence, we proclaim and live a mission to co-create a world that is rooted in love, compassion, and justice.

We are fed at the *Table of the Eucharist* and we are sent to the *Table of the World*.

We are invited to don our aprons and participate in the same ministry of servant leadership in the 21st Century.

As we go forth from the *Table of the Eucharist* tonight, let us rediscover our potential to be disciples “*of the Towel*” where we recommit ourselves to be risk-taking people, serving God, the people of God and each other ~

Tonight, may we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” [John 17:21]

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